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STATINTL

Trujillo Aide Charges U.S. In Death Plot

STAR STATE REPORT

South Bend, Ind. — The United States helped engineer the assassination of Rafael Leonidas Trujillo in 1961, a former confidential aide to the Dominican Republic dictator charged last night.

The former aide, Gen. Arturo E. Espailat, was guest speaker on the Manion Forum of the Air, sponsored by Clarence E. Manion, former dean of the Notre Dame Law School.

Interviewed by Manion's daughter, Miss Marilyn Manion, in Canada, Espailat charged that the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) assisted in the murder of Trujillo in June, 1961, while simultaneously plotting the ill-fated Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba.

ESPAILLAT, former director of intelligence for Trujillo's secret police and secretary of state security, has included that and other charges in a recently published book entitled "Trujillo: The Last Caesar."

Describing the slain dictator as "probably one of the most militant anti-Communists in the world," the former aide said "nevertheless, the American State Department had decreed Trujillo must go."

Espailat said he could only speculate on the "reasons why Washington wanted Trujillo killed," but said he believed "Cuba is probably the answer."

"PREPARATIONS for the Bay of Pigs operation were underway simultaneously with the development of the Trujillo assassination plot which culminated a month after the Cuban fiasco in 1961," he said.

"I would wager that someone in the State Department had insisted that CIA's anti-Castro operation be balanced off also

by knocking Trujillo out of the saddle. I do not believe that the CIA was anxious to take on the assignment of getting rid of Trujillo, but rather because Dominican intelligence had worked closely with CIA, supplying the U.S. agency with information, he said.

"BUT THERE is no doubt in my mind that the CIA was just as anxious to knock off Castro as the State Department was to torpedo Trujillo. Consequently, both departments probably agreed that the left-wing and the right-wing dictatorships would be destroyed simultaneously. It didn't quite workout that way."

Charging the U.S. sent a diplomat to Trujillo as a "smoke screen" to hide the plot, the former aide said Trujillo told the diplomat he was resented by the press and State Department because he had correctly estimated Cuban Premier Fidel Castro's Communist sympathies.

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